

CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): A decorative material, comprising:
two polarizers, wherein each polarizer has a controlled direction of polarization axis; and
at least one phase-shifting plate placed between the polarizers, wherein the phase-shifting plate represents a continuous layer of an optically anisotropic material containing regions differing by optical properties.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11, wherein the optically anisotropic material represents a molecularly oriented film deposited onto an optically isotropic base.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A decorative material, comprising:
two polarizers, wherein each polarizer has a controlled direction of polarization axis, and
at least one of the polarizers contains several elements differing by directions of their polarization axes; and
at least one phase-shifting plate placed between the polarizers, wherein the phase-shifting plate represents a continuous layer of a homogeneous optical anisotropic material.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11 or 13, wherein the anisotropic film is placed in a transparent vessel filled with a transparent or weakly colored liquid medium, and the polarizers are placed in the inner surface of the vessel.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11 or 13, wherein the anisotropic film is placed in a transparent vessel filled with a transparent or weakly colored liquid medium, and the polarizers are placed in the outer surface of the vessel.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polarizers represents a film of molecularly oriented organic substance deposited immediately onto an optically anisotropic material.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polarizers represents a film of molecularly oriented organic substance deposited onto a transparent sublayer predeposited onto a surface of an anisotropic material.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 16 or 17, wherein the molecularly oriented film represents a layer of an organic substance formed from lyotropic liquid crystals.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 16 or 17, wherein the molecularly oriented film represents a layer of an organic substance formed from thermotropic liquid crystals having a temperature of transition from solid to liquid crystal state above the ambient temperature.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A decorative material, comprising
a polarizer having a controlled direction of polarization axis;
a reflecting layer; and
at least one phase-shifting plate placed between the polarizer and the reflecting layer,
wherein the phase-shifting plate represents a continuous layer of an optically anisotropic material containing regions differing by optical properties.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by value of phase shift.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by direction of optical axis.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 11, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by value of phase shift and direction of optical axis.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 20, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by value of phase shift.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 20, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by direction of optical axis.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The decorative material of claim 20, wherein the continuous layer of the optically anisotropic material contains regions differing by value of phase shift and direction of optical axis.